REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 17, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-61 are pending in this application. Although the Office Action Summary recites that "Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected," Applicants respectfully note that Claim 62 has not been presented to the Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-61 stand rejected and proceed as such.

As described in further detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of the cited art describes or suggests the recitations of independent Claims 1, 23, 47, and 52, as amended. Moreover, Claims 13 and 35 have been amended to include additional features of the glance hedge partnership tool. Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of the cited art describes or suggests the additional features of the glance hedge partnership tool as is recited in Claims 13 and 35.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejections of the presently pending claims are not proper rejections. The Federal Circuit has held that:

> It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. This court has previously stated that "[o]ne cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention."

In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (citing In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 1075 (Fed.Cir.1988)). To that point, the United States Supreme Court has expressed concern regarding distortion caused by hindsight bias in an obvious analysis and notes that fact finders should be cautious of arguments reliant upon *ex post* reasoning. See KSR International Co. v. Teleflex, Inc., 550 U.S. 398, ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1397 (2007).

Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have reasonably looked to Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Mahoney, Vance, Takriti, Gastineau, Streetman, Eder, Packwood, and Williams to solve the problem addressed by the claimed invention. Rather, the claimed invention has been used as a "template" to piece together providing forms that have fields and information similar to

printed forms as described by Tondevold, capturing information from a plurality of sources and integrating the information in a standardized format as described by Lombardo, acquiring a software company as described by Business Wire, managing corporate information as described by Mahoney, managing corporate travel expenses as described by Vance, forecasting a spot price of electric power as described by Takriti, determining a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk as described by Gastineau, evaluating a particular natural resource property as described by Streetman, customizing sales forecasts as described by Eder, analyzing risk associated with operating a business as described by Packwood, and estimating a petroleum reserve using a probabilistic approach as described by Williams to deprecate the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 17, 22-25, 28, 39, 44, 52, 56, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,410,646 (Tondevold) in view of U.S. Patent 6,341,290 (Lombardo) and a March 11, 1999 Business Wire article entitled "SS&C Technologies Acquires HedgeWare, Inc., Widens Reach into Hedge Fund, Family Wealth and Investment Advisory Community" (Business Wire) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of the cited art describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. It is asserted on page 3 of the Office Action that Tondevold describes at column 4, lines 35-39 "accessing the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool, the authorization for expenditure tool enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership." Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Tondevold recites at column 4, lines 35-39:

> Various form definitions with fields and information similar to
> printed forms such as, but not limited to, work orders, purchase
> orders, employment applications, sales forms, scheduling forms
> and new customer information sheets are utilized by the present
> system.

In other words, Tondevold merely describes utilizing forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms. The claims of the instant application have been amended to include "a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership *including a capital expenditure*

relating to the energy producing asset." (Emphasis added.) Nowhere does Tondevold describe or suggest a request for proposed expenditure for a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Tondevold does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of the cited art describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. It is asserted on page 5 of the Office Action that Business Wire describes at paragraph 3 "financial partnership software having a glance hedge partnership tool that enables a user to determine a hedge position for the partnership from the partnership business data stored within the database." Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Business Wire recites at paragraph 3:

> Mount Kisco, NY-based HedgeWare, Inc. (www.hedgeware.com) develops and markets software used by active hedge fund managers to track and calculate their positions in numerous instrument types, and also runs a service bureau for its clients. Its AdvisorWare product provides registered investment advisors with a complete set of tools for enterprise-wide portfolio management, accounting, research, and operational support. . . .

In other words, Business Wire merely describes providing software capable of managing an investment portfolio. The claims of the instant application have been amended to include a glance hedge partnership tool that "enables an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership *with respect to the energy producing asset* based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure." (Emphasis added.) Nowhere does Business Wire describe or suggest determining a hedge position for a partnership with respect to an energy producing asset. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Business Wire does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

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Tondevold describes a method and system for routing a form to selected users. The method includes selecting a form, entering data into selected fields of the form, creating a file containing the entered data, determining the form recipients, and transmitting the file to the selected recipients. The system transmits the file based on the form type and routing definition, and the system tracks the file to assure that the initiator of the form receives a response. Notably, Tondevold does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Tondevold does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Lombardo describes a system and method for automatic the communication of business information. The system includes capturing business information from a plurality of sources, integrating the captured information in a standardized format, and displaying the captured information. Notably, Lombardo does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Lombardo does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Business Wire describes that SS&C Technologies acquired HedgeWare, Inc., a provider of portfolio, financial partnership, and tax accounting software. Notably, Business Wire does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Business Wire does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claim 1 recites a method for exchanging information within a partnership having an ownership interest in an energy producing asset including at least one of an oil producing asset and a natural gas producing asset, wherein the method includes "providing forms stored

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within the server as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data and causing the forms to be displayed on a client system . . . uploading forms that include updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to the server, wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within the database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset . . . formatting the partnership business data uploaded using web pages stored within the server . . . downloading the web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data . . . accessing the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool and a glance hedge partnership tool, wherein the authorization for expenditure tool enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and wherein the glance hedge partnership tool enables an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure . . . and tracking the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership."

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 17, and 22 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, 6, 17, and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2, 3, 6, 17, and 22 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system for exchanging information within a partnership, the system comprising a server configured to "provide forms stored within said server as input web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data . . . display the input web pages on said client system . . . upload forms including updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to said server wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within said database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset . . . format the partnership business data uploaded using output web pages stored within said server . . . download the output web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data . . . display on said client system the output web pages . . . access the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool to enable an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and a glance hedge partnership tool to enable an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure . . . and track the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership."

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 24, 25, 28, 39, and 44 depend from independent Claim 23. When the recitations of Claims 24, 25, 28, 39, and 44 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 24, 25, 28, 39, and 44 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire.

Claim 52 recites a computer program for exchanging information within a partnership, the program comprising at least one code segment that "maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating business data . . . provides forms as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data and causing the forms to be displayed on a client system, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset . . . downloads the web pages to authorized users requesting the updated partnership business data . . . accesses the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool to enable an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and a glance hedge partnership tool to enable an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure . . . and tracks the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership."

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 54 and 56 depend from independent Claim 52. When the recitations of Claims 54 and 56 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 54 and 56 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 17, 22-25, 28, 39, 44, 52, 56, and 54 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,819,271 (Mahoney) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire are described above.

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Mahoney describes a corporate information communication and delivery system and method. A database stores research reports and corporate information. Authorization information specifies who is authorized to access each item. The method includes submitting a query and receiving research reports and corporate information that the user is authorized to access. Notably, Mahoney does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Mahoney does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Mahoney describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Mahoney describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Mahoney describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Mahoney, which describes a system that manages corporate information, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Mahoney describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Mahoney.

When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Mahoney.

Claim 26 depends from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Mahoney for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 26 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 26 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Mahoney.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 4 and 26 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5, 27, and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,442,526 (Vance) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire are described above.

Vance et al. describes a system for corporate travel planning and management. The system includes receiving travel data, converting it into a predefined format, and matching the data to prepare an expense report. Notably, Vance does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Vance does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claim 5 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

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Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Vance, which describes a system that manages corporate travel expenses, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

When the recitations of Claim 5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 5 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

Claim 27 depends from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 27 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 27 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

Claim 55 depends from independent Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 55 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 55 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 5, 27, and 55 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 7-9, 29-31, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,974,403 (Takriti) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire are described above.

Takriti describes a method and system for forecasting the spot price of electric power. The method includes using probabilistic models and constraints that factor into the spot price to create probabilistic distributions for spot prices. Notably, Takriti does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Takriti does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claims 7-9 depend from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Takriti describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Takriti describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Takriti describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Takriti, which describes a system that forecasts a spot price of electric power, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Takriti describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti.

When the recitations of Claims 7-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 7-9 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti.

Claims 29-31 depend from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claims 29-31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 29-31 likewise

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is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti.

Claim 57 depends from independent Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 57 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 57 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Takriti.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 7-9, 29-31, and 57 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 10, 12-16, 32, 34-38, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,099,838 (Gastineau) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire are described above.

Gastineau describes a system and method for determining a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk in actively managed exchange traded funds. The method includes using factor information about actively managed exchange traded fund holdings to select a portfolio that has substantially the same sensitivities that affect the value of the fund holdings. Notably, Gastineau does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Gastineau does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claims 10 and 12-16 depend from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Gastineau, which describes a system that determines a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau.

When the recitations of Claims 10 and 12-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 10 and 12-16 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau.

Claims 32 and 34-38 depend from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claims 32 and 34-38 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 32 and 34-38 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau.

Claim 58 depends from independent Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 58 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 58 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Gastineau.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 10, 12-16, 32, 34-38, and 58 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 11 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,658,460 (Streetman) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau are described above.

Streetman describes a system for evaluating a particular natural resource property. The system performs due diligence and generates a valuation/purchase feasibility graph indicative of the value of the natural resource. Notably, Streetman does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Streetman does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claim 11 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Streetman describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Streetman describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Streetman describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company, and Gastineau describes a system that determines a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk. Streetman, which describes a system that evaluates a particular natural resource property, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Streetman.

When the recitations of Claim 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 11 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Streetman.

Claim 33 depends from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Streetman for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 33 is considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 33 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Streetman.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 11 and 33 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 18, 21, 40, 43, 47, 49-51, and 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Streetman are described above.

Claims 18 and 21 depend from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Streetman describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Streetman describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Streetman describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Streetman, which describes a system that evaluates a particular natural resource property, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman.

When the recitations of Claims 18 and 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 18 and 21 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman.

Claims 40 and 43 depend from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claims 40 and 43 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 40 and 43 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman.

Claim 47 recites a method for exchanging information within a partnership involved in oil and gas exploration, the method comprising "providing forms stored within the server as web pages for the insertion of updated partnership business data including oil and gas exploration data . . . uploading forms that include updated partnership business data intended for use by other authorized users to the server, wherein the updated partnership business data is stored within the database, the partnership business data including information describing the energy producing asset . . . enabling an authorized user to access an information page via the at least one client system . . . prompting an authorized user from the information page to access at least one of the plurality of analytical tools including an authorization for expenditure tool and a glance hedge partnership tool, wherein the authorization for expenditure tool enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within the partnership including a capital expenditure relating to the energy producing asset, and wherein the glance hedge partnership tool enables an authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on the partnership business data stored within the database and data relating to the capital expenditure . . . and tracking the proposed expenditure request using the authorization for expenditure tool through an approval process within the partnership."

Claim 47 recites a method involved in oil and gas exploration that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 47 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 49, 50, and 51 depend from independent Claim 47. When the recitations of Claims 49, 50, and 51 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 47, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 49, 50, and 51 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman.

Claim 59 depends from Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 59 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 59 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Streetman.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 18, 21, 40, 43, 47, 49-51, and 59 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance are described above.

Claim 1 is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a

partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Vance, which describes a system that manages corporate travel expenses, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Vance describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

Claim 53 depends from independent Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a processor comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 53 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 53 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Vance.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 53 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 19, 20, 41, 42, 60, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,615,109 (Eder) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire are described above.

Eder describes a system and method for creating feasible, profit maximizing sets of requisitions. The system includes creating sales forecasts by adjusting generic templates and calculating potential profit enhancing changes to the forecasts. Notably, Eder does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Eder does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Eder describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Eder describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Eder describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, and Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company. Eder, which describes a system that creates customized sales forecasts, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, and Business Wire. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Eder describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder.

When the recitations of Claims 19 and 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 19 and 20 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder.

Claims 41 and 42 depend from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claims 41 and 42 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 41 and 42 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder.

Claims 60 and 61 depend from independent Claim 52, which is recited above.

Claim 52 recites a computer program comprising at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 52 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claims 60 and 61 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 52, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 60 and 61 likewise are patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo and Business Wire and further in view of Eder.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 19, 20, 41, 42, 60, and 61 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,006,992 (Packwood) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau et al. are described above.

Packwood describes a method of analyzing and presenting a series of risk factors associated with the operation of a business. The method includes identifying and evaluating a plurality of financial risk factors, and, taking into consideration a plurality of different risk tolerance levels, generating a risk management report. Notably, Packwood does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Packwood does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

Claim 1 is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company, and Gastineau describes a system that determines a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk. Packwood, which describes a system that analyzes risk associated with operating a business, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

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Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Packwood.

Claim 45 depends from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Packwood for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 45 is considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 45 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, and Gastineau and further in view of Packwood.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 45 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of a October 1996 Oil & Gas Investor article by Peggy Williams entitled "In the Counting House" (Williams) is respectfully traversed.

Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood are described above.

Williams describes the petroleum industry's improvement in reserve estimation by switching from a deterministic system to a probabilistic approach. The article describes new technologies in reserve estimation, including improvements in seismic evaluations. Notably, Williams does not describe or suggest an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, Williams does not describe or suggest a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure.

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Claim 1 is recited above.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, Packwood, and Williams describes or suggests a method for exchanging information within a partnership as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, Packwood, and Williams describes or suggests an authorization for expenditure tool that enables an authorized user to submit a request for a proposed expenditure within a partnership including a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset. Moreover, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, Packwood, and Williams describes or suggests a glance hedge partnership tool that enables the authorized user to determine a hedge position for the partnership with respect to the energy producing asset based on data relating to the capital expenditure. Rather, in contrast to the invention, Tondevold describes a system that provides forms that have fields and information similar to printed forms, Lombardo describes a system that captures information from a plurality of sources and integrates the information in a standardized format, Business Wire describes an acquisition of a software company, Gastineau describes a system that determines a basket of financial instruments for hedging investment risk, and Packwood describes a system that analyzes risk associated with operating a business. Williams, which describes estimating a petroleum reserve using a probabilistic approach, does not overcome the deficiencies of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood. Notably, no combination of Tondevold, Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, Packwood, and Williams describes or even suggests a capital expenditure relating to an energy producing asset.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of Williams.

Claim 46 depends from independent Claim 23, which is recited above.

Claim 23 recites a web-based system comprising a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of Williams for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 46 is considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 46 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of Williams.

Claim 48 depends from independent Claim 47, which is recited above.
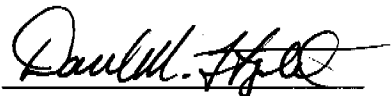
Claim 47 recites a method involved in oil and gas exploration that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 47 is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of Williams for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

When the recitations of Claim 48 is considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 47, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 48 likewise is patentable over Tondevold in view of Lombardo, Business Wire, Gastineau, and Packwood and further in view of Williams.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 46 and 48 under Section 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2740